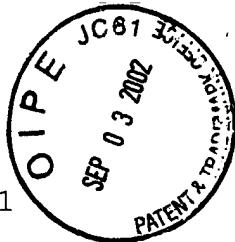


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
Ari HINKKANEN)
Serial No. 09/015,399)
Filed: January 29, 1998)
For: A NEW FUSION PROTEIN AND)
ITS USE IN AN IMMUNOASSAY)
FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS)
DETECTION OF AUTOANTIBODIES)
RELATED TO INSULIN-DEPENDENT)
DIABETES MELLITUS)

Examiner: G. Ewoldt

Group Art Unit: 1644

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COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO JULY 2, 2002 OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Communication is submitted in response to the July 2, 2002 Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action was originally due August 2, 2002. A one-month extension of time extending the due date to September 2, 2002 accompanies this Communication. Because September 2, 2002 falls on a Federal holiday, a response filed on the next succeeding business day, i.e., September 3, 2002 is to be considered timely. Therefore, this Communication is being timely filed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 17-20, 23-24, and 27-28 are pending in the application. In the July 2, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner